

Smoking Restrictions in King County and Washington State

Both King County [Board of Health Code 19.03](#) and Washington state law [RCW 70.160](#) prohibit smoking in all public places and places of employment, including within twenty-five feet of these enclosed places.

What is a [public place](#)?

A public place includes any building or vehicle used by and open to the public.

Examples include: schools, business offices, transportation facilities, buses, museums, concert halls, theaters, retail establishments, shopping centers, ticket areas, public restrooms, libraries, restaurants, bars, casinos, elevators, lobbies, etc.

What is a [place of employment](#)?

A place of employment means any area under the control of a public or private employer that employees must access during the course of their workday. This means that any indoor area with employees must be kept smoke-free, along with any outdoor areas where employees walk during the course of their work (like restaurant and bar patios).

What does the 25-foot requirement mean?

Smoking is prohibited within 25 feet from all entrances, exits, windows that can open, and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited (public places or enclosed places of employment).

Who enforces the smoking law on...

the business where smoking is occurring?

Public Health – Seattle and King County has enforcement authority over establishments allowing smoking to occur in public places or places of employment. This includes if a business facilitates (i.e. has set up and maintains) a smoking area within 25 feet of their doors, windows, and air ventilation intake systems. If a person is smoking within 25 feet of these areas and a business is not facilitating this area, then local law enforcement can intervene.

You may report a violation to Public Health by text 206-745-2548, by phone at 206-296-7613 or online at: <http://kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/tobacco/report.aspx>.

the person smoking?

Local police departments have enforcement authority over the person who is smoking in areas where prohibited by law. They may issue a notice of infraction that would be assessed in the same manner as traffic violations.

Violations may be reported by calling your local police department's non-emergency line.

For additional questions, contact Public Health – Seattle and King County at 206-296-7613.